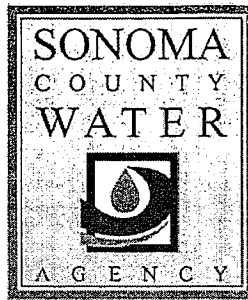


Lynn Florey



FILE: 42-4.19 & 6.19-9 Correspondence Related to
SWRCB Order Approving Temporary Urgency Change
in Permits 12947A, 12949, 12950 & 16596 (2009)

April 17, 2009

To: Russian River Watershed Purveyors

RE: STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD WATER CONSERVATION
PROGRAM

Dear Water Purveyor/Business:

As you may know, the Sonoma County Water Agency filed a petition with the State Water Resources Control Board on April 6, 2009 requesting approval of a Temporary Urgency Change to its water rights permits. The petition requested that in-stream flow requirements be reduced to prevent Lake Mendocino from going dry and preserve storage necessary for survival of listed Russian River salmonid fisheries and the agricultural and municipal uses that depend on Lake Mendocino. On the same day, the State Board issued Order WR 2009-0027-DWR, conditionally approving the change petition.

Order WR 2009-0027-DWR requires that the Water Agency:

- Temporarily reduce diversions from the Russian River by 25%,
- Temporarily prohibit irrigation of commercial turf grass within its service area, and
- Within 30 days, submit and implement a water conservation plan by which Russian River water users reach a water conservation goal of 25% in Sonoma County and 50% in Mendocino County.

The purpose of this letter is to enlist your cooperation with the Agency in meeting these extremely challenging goals for water conservation, and begin gathering usage and conservation savings data from your utility or business.

Term 15 of Order WR 2009-0027-DWR requires the Water Agency, within 30 days of the date of the Order, to submit a plan to the State Board to obtain cooperation and participation of municipal Russian River water users not supplied by the Water Agency to reach a water conservation goal of 25% in Sonoma County and 50% in Mendocino County for the period of April 6, 2009 to October 2, 2009, when the order expires. Term 15 also requires the Water Agency to identify and prevent waste, unreasonable methods of use, or unreasonable methods of diversion of water. Monthly progress reports are to be submitted to the State Board by the Water Agency with regard to progress being made both in gaining your utility/business's cooperation and investigating waste.

Additionally, Term 16 of Order WR 2009-0027-DWR requires the Water Agency to prepare a Water Conservation Status Report for the Water Agency's service areas and other areas served by Lake Mendocino. This report is due to the State Board by December 31, 2009.

To comply with Terms 15 and 16, the Water Agency will need to gather usage and conservation savings information from your utility or business.

Please share with us how you plan to achieve the 25% (Sonoma County) or 50% (Mendocino County) water conservation goals. For example, which CUWCC BMPs are you practicing? Are you implementing a commercial turf irrigation ban? How do you enforce your water waste ordinances? What types of water conservation programs do you have in place and what conservation measures are you planning to start?

We need to begin gathering information about your utility/business now, because the plan required under Term 15 is due to the State Board on May 6, 2009.

Please provide the following information **by April 28, 2009** to help us respond to the State Board's Order:

1. Your actual diversion volumes in 2004 for the months of July, August, September, and October;
2. A description of how your utility/business will achieve a 25% or 50% reduction in the use of water during the period from April 6, 2009 to October 2, 2009;
3. The savings (volume of water) that you estimate will be realized from these measures; and
4. Your plan to identify and prevent any water waste and unreasonable use.

We realize that we are asking for this information in a very short amount of time, and for that we apologize. The Water Agency truly appreciates your prompt attention to this urgent matter.

If you have any questions, please call Heather Bauman at 707-547-1910 or Lynn Florey at 707-547-1909.

Sincerely,



Lynn Florey
Sonoma County Water Agency
Principal Program Specialist

Encs SWRCB Order WR 2009-0027-DWR
SCWCB TUC Notice
Press Release – Turf Irrigation